



TOWN HALL ACCESS: Ridge Road access to parking at Town Hall is closed for police station construction. A new stainless steel utility bill drop box is located at the rear (north side) of the Town Hall at the far western end of the new parking lot. Residents are invited to park in the new parking lot as needed for municipal business.

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • OCTOBER 2014



Highland town leaders break ground Sept. 27 for the new public safety facility. From left: Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin, Police Commissioners James Slagle, Larry Moes, James Turoci, Steve Jurczak, Assistant Police Chief Pat Vassar, Councilmen Konnie Kuiper, Dennis Adams, Mark Herak, Dan Vassar, Bernie Zemen, Police Chief Pete Hohnicki, Town Attorney Rhett Tauber and Chuck Hoffman, chair of the public building corporation. [Ken Balon photo]

PUBLIC SAFETY GROUNDBREAKING

More than a dozen town leaders grabbed their shovels and turned spades full of packed sandy soil under picture-perfect skies Sept. 27 signaling the ceremonial beginning of construction of a new public safety building at the corner of Ridge Road and Cottage Grove Avenue.

Two days later, bulldozers, big equipment and construction crews descended on the site to begin digging the foundation for a sub-grade garage that will accommodate safe prisoner transfer and above-grade space for Highland's contingent of sworn police officers.

Town Councilman Dennis Adams, who is the council liaison for the project, basked in the moment. "It's been 12 years and two needs assessments to get us to today," Adams said. "It's been like a vision I thought might never happen but am so very happy that it has."

The department is already thinking about the move from Town Hall, which is expected to take place in November 2015. Look for regular updates on the progress of the public safety construction site on the town's newly launched website – www.highland.in.gov. 🐾

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

Fall leaf collection begins Monday, Oct. 13 and will conclude the second week in December. The insert in this issue of the Gazebo Express contains dates for leaf collection in your neighborhood.



... TOWN TICKER ...

Highland graduate **Jacob Santos** has been named a 2014 Greater Calumet Area U.S. Bowling Congress Scholar. Santos, who received \$500, graduated 50th in his class of 267 and has been accepted into Purdue University's engineering program. ... Enjoy the artwork of **Highland Christian Elementary School students**, which will be on display in businesses throughout downtown in October. **Highland Main Street volunteer Joanna Smith** curated the exhibit using visual art created by students of **art teacher Lauren Evers**.

COUNCIL CONTINUES TO WEIGH OPTIONS FOR TOWN THEATRE

Members of the Town Council are continuing to weigh their options when it comes to investing in the renovation of the Town Theatre.

Although the council had planned to have a decision by the end of September, President Dan Vassar said he is willing to give the fact-finding a little more time to gain a clear consensus.

"I am in favor of restoring the Town and doing the project correctly" Vassar said. "I have always loved the Town, but this isn't just about nostalgia. This historic theatre sets us apart and

gives us an economic development driver. Once renovated, it will give people around the region another reason to come to downtown Highland. There are communities all around us that don't have a central shopping district, much less an attraction like the Town."

Of greatest concern to the council members who remain undecided is the possibility the theatre will require an infusion of operating funds for several years post renovation.

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro believes

the need for operating funds would be short-lived and would depend on how quickly the facility could be fully booked.

"The renovation is about bringing in new businesses and revitalizing downtown," Petro said.

"The reality is; there aren't a lot of ways to do that. We are lucky to have a community focal point that we can capitalize upon. Expanding our arts to create a vibrant district will be a nice byproduct but our goal is to create economic development for our town." 🐾



FOOD, FUN & FIRE

Grab the kids and head to the Central Fire Station for an open house where kids can play with water, ride firetrucks and watch a side-by-side burn. Food and refreshments will be served.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **OCT. 11**

WHERE: Highland Central Fire Station, 2901 Highway Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 923-9876.

FINAL MARKET DAYS

It's your last chance to catch the weekly street market this month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **OCT. 11** and **18** at Main Square Park.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

DAN VASSAR - president
dvassar@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-1945



WARD 4

DENNIS ADAMS
dadams@highland.in.gov
(219) 923-8475



WARD 5


KONNIE KUIPER
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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
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WINTER SNOW-ROUTE PROPOSAL SEEKS TO ELIMINATE STREET PARKING

With forecasters already predicting 2015 will rival 2014 in terms of winter's fury, town officials are making plans to shore up enforcement as well as provide new tools to keep parking off streets during snowstorms.

The reason: snow crews and emergency responders can't do their jobs when they have to dodge parked and snow-bound cars.

Public Works Director John Bach, Building Commissioner Ken Mika and the Traffic Safety Committee are modifying existing laws to eliminate any street parking during snows.

"We are going to ask the Town Council to make every street in town a snow route," Bach said. "That would mean no on-street parking during and immediately after snowstorms, giving us time to get our work done."

Mika said last winter's non-stop snows were made even more difficult because of the number of residents who disregarded the rules.

"Our goal is to get snow cleared curb-to-curb," he said. "If we can't do that, subsequent snows

FALL CLEANUP DAY

If you've been trying to make room for your car in the garage, now's the time to mark your calendar. Republic Waste Services will schedule extra crews Oct. 14 to collect an abundance of trash and unwanted items generated as part of the townwide fall cleanup day. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the increased collection crews.

Construction debris, concrete, household hazardous waste, paint, pool chemicals and leaves are NOT included.

pile up and make a difficult situation worse."

Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said the group plans to forward recommendations to the council before flakes start to fly, leaving residents with ample time to consider options, such as making space in their garages for cars.

"Last winter taught us that we really need to keep all parked cars off the streets when it snows," Hojnicky said. "We need to do everything we can now to prepare for winter. It will be here before we know it." 🐾

HIGHLAND WOMAN'S CLUB VOLUNTEERING, GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY FOR 50 YEARS

Pat Kepchar was at a Highland High track meet in 1982 when she learned the town had a women's club and agreed on-the-spot to become a member.

The club was only 18 years young then. Kepchar grew with the service organization, which is part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

"The Highland Woman's Club was having a bake sale at the track meet," she said. "I was getting ready to graduate from Purdue University Calumet and knew I wanted to find the time to become part of this organization."

Kepchar went on to become a hospital social worker but never lost her passion for the Highland Woman's Club, which is celebrating 50 years of philanthropy and friendship this year.

Started in 1868 when a New York journalist was denied entry to a dinner at an all-male press club, which was honoring Charles Dickens, Jane Cunningham Croly formed a club just for women.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Highland Woman's Club meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of the month September through April at Lincoln Community Center.

INFO: To learn more, please call membership chair Pat Kepchar at (219) 924-4485.

The club became an advocate for infants and children. By the 1930s, the GFWC had established more than 75 percent of America's public libraries, a tradition of support that continues today.

The group exists to raise funds that support charities and not-for-profit organizations.

"We operate a concession stand at Lincoln Center that coincides with the town garage sales. We have a bunco fund-raiser and volunteer at the Cancer Resource Center Walk," Kepchar said. "We have 23 ladies in our group today, women I am proud to work with and to call my friends." 🐾

FESTIVAL OF THE TRAIL

Get ready: This year's Festival of the Trail is planned to be bigger and better than last year's launch event.

Live entertainment featuring musicians, comedy acts and dance troupes will headline the festival celebrating the trail, which is being held in conjunction with the Fire Department Open House and a companion festival in Griffith.

In addition, there will be a group of fine arts' vendors along with other booths and offerings, including the Highland Park Department. Visit the Main Street booth to pick up a coupon good for discounts at merchants located throughout the downtown.

"From the moment we began developing the first Festival of the Trail in 2013, our plan was to get a little bigger each year and spread the word to other communities located along the bike path," said Dawn Diamantopoulos, co-chair of this year's fest.

"We've added an hour to our festival and made it on the same day as the Fire Department Open House to give people yet one more reason to come downtown. We are also partnering with Griffith to promote both events, which are walkable or bikable along the trail." 🚲

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Join us for family-friendly fun on or off Highland's trail.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, OCT. 11

WHERE: Municipal parking lot at the corner of Highway and Kennedy avenues.

INFO: Call Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email CPetro@highland.in.gov.

ON-TRAIL ACTIVITIES

- 🚲 Bicycle safety demos
- 🍴 Food and retail vendors
- 📄 Information booths
- 🚲 On-site bicycle tune-ups
- 🎨 "Art on the Trail" art exhibit
- 🎵 Live music
- 🏆 Contests and more ...

OFF-TRAIL ACTIVITIES

- 🌾 Highland farmer's market
- 💰 Super Saver Saturday Sidewalk Sale



OLG CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our Lady of Grace Altar & Rosary Sodality will host its 43rd annual Christmas bazaar featuring arts, crafts, quilts, candy, holiday decorations and more. The bazaar also features a large bakery department including nut rolls, poppy seed rolls and strudels.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **NOV. 1** and 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **NOV. 2**

WHERE: Our Lady of Grace School cafeteria, 3025 Highway Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 924-8483.

ST. JAMES HOLIDAY SALE

Start your Christmas shopping early at St. James the Less Holiday Bazaar and bake sale featuring homemade goodies including pierogies, cookies, nut rolls, strudels, vendors and more!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **NOV. 8**

WHERE: St. James the Less, 9640 Kennedy Ave.

INFO: Call Diane at (219) 924-1778.

GLORIA DEI BAZAAR

The Grace Notes have been busy making salsas, jalapeño jellies and zucchini relish from produce grown in the church's garden. These delicious goodies will be available for purchase at the holiday bazaar in addition to homemade crafts and baked goods.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **NOV. 1**

WHERE: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3711 Ridge Road.

INFO: Call (219) 838-5313.

HHS BAND CRAFT FAIR

The best in arts and crafts will be showcased at the annual Highland Band Fall Craft Fair. The two-day event features jewelry, fiber arts and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **NOV. 8** and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. **NOV. 9**

WHERE: Highland Middle School

INFO: Call Pam Finke at (219) 313-0644.

DID YOU LIKE OUR FIRST LABOR DAY FESTIVAL?

The Council of Community Events needs your input, more specifically your thoughts and ideas about the first ever Labor Day Festival.

"This was our first year so we weren't sure what to expect, especially since Griffith has a big festival that weekend, too," said Kelly Bridges, president of the Council of Community Events. "We want to hear from Highland residents — what they like about our festivals and what they would change."

Please share your comments, criticisms and suggestions regarding festival activities, such as:

- ✓ What type of music do you want hear?
- ✓ Carnival rides — yes or no?
- ✓ What are your thoughts of our first beer garden?
- ✓ If another Fall Festival is planned, is Labor Day weekend convenient for you to attend?
- ✓ Other Main Square events you would like to see?



Please email your comments to Kelly Bridges at events@highland.in.gov or snail mail: CCE, c/o Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, IN 46322.

ANNUAL PUMPKIN SALE

The Highland Adult Athletic Booster Club will be selling pumpkins, corn stalks, hay bales, mums and other seasonal items.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, **OCT. 11**

WHERE: Highland Middle School

INFO: Call Michael Fraley at (219) 972-0736.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you enjoy shopping for comic books, sports cards, autographs and other rare items? Roger Parker from P & P Collectibles will promote the card show in conjunction with the Community Garage Sale. Register to sell your items now!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **OCT. 11**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$26.75 for 10' X 10' space and \$42.80 for approximate 23' X 6' wall space.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

BEGINNERS THEATER CLASS

Rookie thespians will learn how to prepare for an audition, theatrical terminology and more. Participants will put on a short 10-minute play for family and friends during the final night.

WHEN: 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, **OCT. 15-NOV. 12**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$50/\$55. Online activity code 349009.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

HIGHLAND YOUTH BASKETBALL

The deadline to register your boy or girl for Youth Basketball is this month. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 will play a 10-game season while learning the fundamentals of basketball. Games are on Saturdays and practice on weekdays. Teams are determined by a player draft. All players receive a T-shirt.

DEADLINE: Register by Sunday, **OCT. 19**

FEE: \$50. Online activity code 13306.

PRACTICE: Begins week of **NOV. 10**

GAMES: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **DEC. 6 - FEB. 21**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Fieldhouse

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

VOLLEYBALL SKILLS & DRILLS

Improve your volleyball skills with setting, passing, overhand serving and spiking drills.

GRADES 3-5: 4 p.m. Mondays, **NOV. 10 - DEC. 15**

GRADES 6-8: 5 p.m. Mondays, **NOV. 10 - DEC. 15**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$74 residents, \$79 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

BOOTH SPACE AVAILABLE

Highland Parks and Recreation is now accepting crafters and vendors for its annual fall show.

VENDOR FEES: \$53.50 for 10' X 10' space and \$85.60 for wall space for both days.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **NOV. 29** and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, **NOV. 30**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114.

Happy Halloween

JACK-O'-LANTERN FESTIVAL

Bring your best carved pumpkin to the Main Square Gazebo along with a \$2 entry fee for Kiwanis' annual salute to autumn. Vote for your favorite pumpkin. Bring the family for some good old-fashioned Halloween fun including hayrides, games, hot cider and cocoa to warm your nose and a campfire to warm your toes. All festival proceeds will be donated to Riley Children's Hospital.

WHEN: 5 to 8 p.m. **OCT. 29-30**

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

INFO: Call Jeannine at (219) 923-2360 or highlandkiwanis@yahoo.com.

TRICK-OR-TREAT

Trick-or-treat hours for all goblins and ghouls are from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, **OCT. 31**. Looking for a safe and fun trick-or-treat alternative? New Life Christian Reformed Church will host Trunk-or-Treat in the church parking lot, 3010 Ridge Road.

INFO: For more information about the church event, call (219) 838-0506.

TRI KAPPA BOO BLAST

Join us for a costume-filled afternoon of games, storytelling, snacks and more for all kids 10 and under.

WHEN: 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, **OCT. 18**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

TICKETS: Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at Lincoln Center and through Munster-Highland Tri Kappa members.

INFO: Email mhtrikappa@gmail.com or call Dorothy at (219) 588-2113.

JACK-O'-LANTERN JOG

Join the Chamber of Commerce for a fun 5K race for adults, kids and their pets. All participants are encouraged to wear costumes. In the spirit of Halloween, businesses will be handing out treats.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Saturday, **OCT. 25**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666 or www.highlandchamber.com.

